Numb. 105

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

From *Thursday* December 8. to *Saturday* December 10. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, December 9.

As soon as my Midnight Studies are finished, I take but a very short Repose, and am again up at an Exercise of another Kind; that is to say, my Fencing. Thus my Life passes away in a restless Pursuit of Fame, and a Preparation to defend my self against such as attack it. This Anxiety in the Point of Reputation is the peculiar Weakness of fine Spirits, and makes 'em liable to a Thousand Inquietudes, from which Men of grosser Understandings are exempt; In that Nothing is more common, than to see one Part of Mankind live at perfect Ease under such Circumstances as would make another Part of 'em intirely miserable.

This may serve for a Preface to the History of poor *Will Rosin*, the Fiddler of *Wapping*, who is a Man as much made for Happiness, and a quiet Life, as any one breathing; but has been lately intangled in so many intricate and unreasonable Distresses, as would have made him (had he been a Man of too nice Honour) the most wretched of all Mortals. I came to the Knowledge of his Affairs by meer Accident. Several of the narrow End of our Line having made an Appointment to visit some Friends beyond St. *Katherine's*, where there was to be a merry Meeting, they would needs take with them the Old Gentleman, as they are pleased to call me. I, who value my Company by their good Will, which naturally has the same Effect as good Breeding, was not too stately, or too wise, to accept of the Invitation. Our Design was to be Spectators of a Sea-Fight; to which I readily consented, provided I might be *incognito*, being naturally pleased with the Survey of human Life in all its Degrees and Circumstances. In order to this Merriment, *Will Rosin* (who is the *Carelli* of the *Wapping* side, as *Tom. Scrape* is the *Bononcini* of *Ratcliffe*) was immediately sent for; but to our utter Disappointment, poor *Will*, was under an Arrest, and desired the Assistance of all his kind Masters and Mistresses, or he must go to Gaol. The whole Company received his Message with great Humanity, and very generously threw in their Half-pence apiece in a great Dish, which purchas'd his Redemption out of the Hands of the Bailiffs. During the Negotiation for his Enlargement, I had an Opportunity of acquainting my self with his History.

Mr. *William Rosin*, of the Parish of St. *Katherine*, as lower hat stricken in Years, and married to a young Widow, who has very much the Ascendant over him: This degenerate Age being so perverted in all Things, that even in the State of Matrimony, the Young pretend to govern their Elders. The Musician is extremely fond of her; but is often obliged to lay by his Fiddle to hear louder Notes of hers, when she is pleased to be angry with him: For you are to know, *Will* is not of Consequence enough to enjoy her Conversation but when she chides him, or makes use of him to carry on her Amours. For she is a Woman of Stratagem; and even in that Part of the World where one would expect but very little Gallantry, by the Force of natural Genius, she can be ill-us'd, sick, out of Humour, splenatick, want new Clothes, and more Money, as well as if she had been bred in *Cheapside* or *Cornhil*. She was lately under a secret Discontent upon Account of a Lover she was like to lose by his Marriage: For her Gallant, Mr. *Ezekiel Boniface*, had been twice asked in Church, in order to be joined in Matrimony with Mrs. *Winifred Dimple*, Spinster of the same Parish. Hereupon Mrs. *Rosin* was fallen into that Distemper which well-govern'd Husbands know by the Description of, *I and I know not how*; and *Will* soon understood, that it was his Part to enquire into the Occasion of her Melancholy, or suffer as the Cause of it himself. After much Importunity, all he could get out of her, was, That she was the most unhappy and the most wicked of all Women, and had no Friend in the World to tell her Grief to. Upon this, *Will* doubled his Importunities; but she said, That she should break her poor Heart, if he did not take a solemn Oath upon a Book, that he would not be angry; and that he would expose the Person who had wronged her to all the World, for the Ease of her Mind, which was no way else to be quieted. The Fiddler was so melted, that he immediately kissed her, and afterwards the Book. When his Oath was taken, she began to lament her self, and revealed to him, that (miserable Woman as she was) she had been false to his Bed. *Will* was glad to hear it was no worse; but before he could reply, Nay (said she) I will make you all the Atonement I can, and take Shame upon me by proclaiming it to all the World, which is the only Thing that can remove my present Terrors of Mind. This was indeed too true; for her Design was to prevent Mr. *Boniface's* Marriage, which was all she apprehended. *Will* was throughly angry, and began to curse and swear, the ordinary Expressions of Passion in Persons of his Condition. Upon which his Wife — Ah *William!* How well you mind the Oath you have taken, and the Distress of your poor Wife, who can keep nothing from you; I hope you won't be such a perjured Wretch as to forswear your self. The Fiddler answered, That his Oath obliged him only not to be angry at what was past; but I find you intend to make me laughed at all over *Wapping*. No, no, (replied Mrs. *Rosin*) I see well enough what you would be at, you poor-spirited Cuckold — You are afraid to expose *Boniface*, who has abused your poor Wife, and would fain perswade me still to suffer the Stings of Conscience; but I assure you Sirrah, I won't go to the Devil for you. Poor *Will* was not made for Contention, and beseeching her to be pacified, desired she would consult the Good of her Soul her own Way, for he would not say her nay in any Thing.

Mrs. *Rosin*

Mrs. *Rosin* was so very loud and publick in her Invectives against *Boniface*, that the Parents of his Mistress forbad the Banes, and his Match was prevented, which was the whole Design of this deep Stratagem. The Father of *Boniface* brought his Action of Defamation, arrested the Fiddler, and recovered Damages. This was the Distress from which he was relieved by the Company; and the good Husband's Air, History, and Jollity, upon his Enlargement, gave Occasion to very much Mirth; especially when *Will*, finding he had Friends to stand by him, proclaimed himself a Cuckold by Way of Insult over the Family of the *Bonifaces*. Here is a Man of Tranquility without reading *Seneca!* What Work had such an Incident made among Persons of Distinction? The Brothers and Kindred of each Side must have been drawn out, and Hereditary Hatreds entailed on the Families as long as their very Names remained in the World. Who would believe that *Herod*, *Othello*, and *Will Rosin*, were of the same Species?

There are quite different Sentiments which reign in the Parlour and the Kitchin; and it is by the Point of Honour, when justly regulated, and inviolably observed, that some Men are superior to others, as much as Mankind in general are to Brutes. This puts me in Mind of a Passage in the admirable Poem called the *Dispensary*, where the Nature of true Honour is artfully described in an Ironical Dispraise of it.

But e'er we once engage in Honour's Cause,
First know what Honour is, and whence it was.
Scorn'd by the Base, 'tis courted by the Brave,
The Hero's Tyrant, and the Coward's Slave.
Born in the noise Camp, it lives on Air;
And both exists by Hope and by Despair.
Angry when e'er a Moment's Ease we gain,
And reconcil'd at our Returns of Pain,
It lives, when in Death's Arms the Hero lies,
But when his Safety he consults, it dies.
Bigotted to this Idol, we disclaim,
Rest, Health, and Ease, for nothing but a Name.

A very odd Fellow visited me to Day at my Lodgings, and desired Encouragement and Recommendation from me for a new Invention of Knockers to Doors, which he told me he had made, and professed to teach Rustick Servants the Use of them. I desired him to show me an Experiment of this Invention; upon which he fixed one of his Knockers to my Parlour Door. He then gave me a compleat Set of Knocks, from the solitary Rap of the Dun and Beggar, to the Thunderings of the sawcy Footman of Quality, with several Flourishes and Ratlings never yet performed. He likewise played over some private Notes, distinguishing the familiar Friend or Relation from the most modish Visitor; and directing when the Reserve Candles are to be lighted. He has several other Curiosities in this Art. He waits only to receive my Approbation of the main Design. He is now ready to practise to such as shall apply themselves to him; but I have put off his publick Licence till next Court-Day.
N. B. *He teaches under Ground.*

Errata *of the last*. *Line* 4. *Col.* 1. *for* desired to, *read* desired me to. *Line* 44. *Col.* 1. *for* not so much because, *read* not only because. *Line* 50. *Col.* 2. *for* Lady whom, *read* Lady whose Name. *Line* 11. *Col.* 3. *for* have hindered, *read* hath hindered.

Whereas I am informed, That there is a spurious and very incorrect Edition of these Papers printed in a small Volume; These are to give Notice, That there it in the Press, and will speedily be published, a very neat Edition, fitted for the Pocket, on extraordinary good Paper, a new Brevier *Letter, like the* Elzevir *Editions, and adorned with several Cuts by the best Artists. To which is added, a Preface, Index, and many Notes, for the better Explanation of these Lucubrations. By the Author. Who has revised, amended, and made many Additions to the Whole.*

N. B. Notice shall be given in this Paper, when I conclude my Firtt Volume.

Advertisements.

THere having of late in several News-Papers been an Advertisement, called Mendicus Liberatus, pretended to be made by J. Partridge, but in Truth was patched together by Benjamin Harris (famous for Practices of this Nature) This Notice is given to prevent Persons from being imposed upon; for there will not be any Almanack published by J. Partridge for the Year 1710, the Injunction granted by the Lord High Chancellor against printing the same being still in Force; and if any Person shall deal in any Counterfeit Almanack, they will be proceeded against.

SIR William Read, Her Majesty's Oculist in Durham-Yard in the Strand, London, by his long Practice, and great Experience, has lately found out a Medicine that clears the Eyes from Suffusions, and strengthens the Optick Nerve, which infallibly prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and preserves the Sight in Old or Young. He likewise couches Cataracts without Pain, or much Confinement, if they apply themselves to him before damaged by Pretenders; as will be attested by many Persons of Quality and others that have found the good Effect thereof. He also cures Hair-Lips, or Wry Necks, tho' never so deformed; or contracted Limbs; and has lately taken several Wens of a great Bigness; particularly one from a Gentlewoman that weigh'd 26 Pounds, without any Effusion of Blood, after the Application of his Scyptick Water, which all People may be furnish'd with at his House, with the Medicines for the Eyes above-mention'd.

Just publish'd,

*** A Treatise, entitled, A perfect Cure for the King's Evil (whether hereditary or accidental) by effectual Alcalious Medicines, faithfully approved by the Experience of 18 Years Practice, and the Testimony of above 400 Patients restored beyond Relapse. By Tho. Fern, Chirurgeon. Giving an exact Account also, how he himself was perfectly cured by the same Medicines, after having languished 11 Years under the Cure of Distemper, and being given over by several eminent Physicians and Surgeons in London. Printed for D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan at the Golden Ball in Cornhill, A. Bettesworth at the Red Lion on London-Bridge, C. King in Westminster-Hall, W. Mears near Lincolns-Inn-Gate in Chancery-Lane, and at the Author's House in Grange-Court near Lincolns-Inn. Price 1 s. 6 d. bound, 1 s. stitch'd.

WHereas there is lately published a neat and beautiful Edition of Bishop Beveridge of Publick Prayer, and frequent Communion, designed to revive primitive Piety; and whereas several of the Clergy and Laity have subscribed to that excellent Book, which is now sold for 1 s. in Sheets, and 1 s. 2 d. bound; this is to desire other pious Persons to encourage and disperse them throughout the Kingdom; which it is not doubted but they will readily do, when considered, a greater Good cannot be done at a less expence. Those that take a Hundred shall have Ten gratis; and are hereby desired to send in their Names and Numbers speedily, to R. Smith at his Warehouse in Exeter Exchange in the Strand, the Books being ready to deliver. At which Place also may be had, the said Bishop's English Works in Nine Volumes, Price 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. and ready Money for any Library or Parcel of Books.

*** A Pocket-Book, green Vellum, Clasps on the Side, with an Almanack for 1710, and white Paper; an Account of Roads, Fairs, Markets, and where Waggons and Coaches lye; the Distance of all Market-Towns from London, and County they are in; Accounts ready cast up; of great Use to all Traders; to write Letters, keep Accounts, Rates of Car, Coach and Watermen, Tables of Interest, present State of London and England, City Laws, Prices of Glaziers, Joyners, and all Handicraft-Work; to make Bills, Bonds, Wills, Receipts, &c. Instructions for Masters of Ships; and divers other Matters. Sold at the Ring in Little-Britain. Price 2 s.

*** The Statutes at large, in Three Volumes; Wingate and Washington's Abridgments, with a Supplement to them; Mr. Clutterbuck's Plain and Rational Vindication and Explanation of the Liturgy; Dr. Gibson on the Sacrament, at 1 l. 5 s. per Hundred; Winchester Manual; Bibles and Common Prayers of all Sorts, ruled or unruled; a fine Set of Cuts to the Common Prayer, engraved by Mr. Sturt; Dr. Nicolls's Paraphrase on the Common Prayer; the New Welch Common Prayer and Psalms, with or without Cuts; and Tate and Brady's Psalms, with the New Supplement; Bishop Beveridge's Catechism; Dr. Williams's Catechism; are sold by R. Whitledge, at the Bible and Ball in Ave-Mary-lane near Ludgate, at the lowest Prices.

The Record-Ink Powder,

FOr making expeditiously the blackest and most lasting Writing Ink; being a Tincture from Minerals, Marchasites, with other ponderous Ingredients, far exceeding (for this Purpose) any dissolving Powder whatever. Each Sixpenny Paper contains three Ounces, sealed up with Directions; 8 Papers make a Gallon; 4 more, with the former Sediment, will make another Gallon as good as the first; and thus in Proportion for a greater or less Quantity is much cheaper than hitherto known. It is also fit for Carriage by Sea and Land, as now prepared in Powder by Austin Oldsworth, Stationer, at the Golden Ball in Cannon-street. Sold by the Stationers, Booksellers and Haberdashers, in London, and other City and chief Towns in Great Britain and Ireland.

TUrkey Coffee, 6 s. Chocolate with Sugar, 2 s. 2 d. all Nut, 3 s. 6 d. all Sorts of Green Tea, the lowest at 10 s. Bohee from 12 to 24 s. the Right Quintessence of Bohee, at 2 l. a Bottle. The best Brazil Snuff, 48 s. and 3 s. 4 d. an Ounce; Portugal, 18 s. and 1 s. 4 d. an Ounce; Amazons, Barcelona, and Port St. Lucar; sold by Wholesale or Retale, at the Star in Bedford-Court near Covent-Garden.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where *Advertisements* are taken in.